

# TRINITY COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NEWSLETTER

May 2006

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## **N6TKX Retiring from Editor**

Many thanks to retiring Newsletter Editor Evelyn Harrigan N6TKX, who has done a marvelous job for a long time putting together and mailing out the newsletter. Tough act to follow!!!!

Items for the newsletter should now be sent to Robert KB6YTD or Vicki KF6OAH.

## **Injured Member**

Bob McNeil KA6ZVR is suffering from a back injury that has incapacitated his right arm. It looks like surgery may be in the offing, so keep Bob and Terrie in your thoughts and prayers.

## **Silent Key**

We're sorry to report the passing of Dorothy Cameron, KF6TJ, in late February. Dorothy had been an active member of TCARC for many years. Her husband, Rod, KF6TQ, became a Silent Key several years ago and Dorothy had moved to Stockton in recent years to be closer to family.

## **Next Meeting**

The May meeting will be a no-host lunch at Marino's (order from the menu) at 12 noon on Saturday, May 12th. When we moved the February breakfast to lunch it was quite successful and easier to get to, so we decided to do the same thing with the May dinner. This will be a fun outing, and election of officers will take place.

## **Disaster Preparedness Fair**

June 10th is the date of "Together We Prepare," the disaster preparedness fair put on by the Red Cross at Long's parking lot. It will

be from 9 to 3 and we will need volunteers to man the ECU if we are going to take part in it. Mike Bagnod has promised that this time they WILL have frequencies set up for inter-county radio contact and packet.

## **Field Day**

The weekend of June 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> is Field Day! We used to have a lot of fun doing Field Day as a club so we're planning to do something this year. Details at the May meeting.

## **Annual TCARC Picnic and Garage Sale**

Last year we had the club picnic in conjunction with the club yard sale out at the Carpenters'. Vi says it is too hard to have both the picnic and the garage sale on the same day. Clean-up went well, but preparation was hard. Besides not having enough help early in the day, we are not supplying enough goods for sale, so Vi had to rely on the neighbors. This year if we want a garage sale it is proposed that we each submit a list of whatever we have to contribute in June. Since Vi will be away, the secretary will collect and collate the lists. Then we will see if there is enough stuff promised to go ahead with the sale. We need to be able to make the decision when Vi gets back, so there will ample time to publicize it. More stuff can show up later, no problem. We just need to know if there will be enough to make it worth while. This has always been a good money raiser for the club, so it would make the treasurer a happier fellow if we could follow through on this.

## **Lewiston Disaster Drill**

August 5th Red Cross is putting on a disaster drill at Lewiston school, complete with appropriately oozing bandages. They would like to have Radio Club/ARES participation for this, and again have promised frequencies with operators at the other end for message sending. It would be a great opportunity to work on our emergency skills, so please save the date on your calendar and plan to participate.

## **Digital Doings**

Don, ND6T and Robert, KB6YTD have been having quite a bit of fun playing around with various "soundcard" modes. By making the appropriate connections between a basic PC and radio then downloading some free programs off of the Internet, we were able to have QSOs in PSK31 mode and send pictures back and forth over SSTV mode. Robert also had a QSO on 40 meters to a station in Kentucky on PSK31 mode, using approximately 3 watts peak! Don had a similar QSO. I understand Greg, WB6FZH also has these modes available and Tom, W6BVC is close. These modes are not only a lot of fun, they could have some serious uses, too. Consider a ham in the field with a digital camera, laptop and mobile radio sending pictures of disaster X (fire, flood, etc) to a unit at an EOC in nearly real-time.